

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1885.

Several Questions.

A subscriber, whom we suspect of being a Greenbacker, has sent us the following questions:

LEBANON, VA., Dec. 14, 1885.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

1. Will you tell your readers how much greenbacks we have in circulation and what it costs the Government to maintain it in circulation?

2. How much national currency have we in circulation, and what does it cost us annually to keep it in circulation?

3. What interest are the banks allowed to loan their money at?

4. What consideration do the banks give in return for the 90 per cent. of credit granted them by the Government on every hundred dollars' worth of United States bonds which they deposit as a basis of their currency?

The last figures we have before us are for the year 1884. These figures are about right, and will serve our correspondent's purpose.

1. The amount of greenbacks in circulation in 1884 was \$346,681,016. The cost of maintaining that circulation is so small a percentage that it may be left out of the account altogether.

2. The amount of national-bank-note circulation in 1884 was \$332,473,693. The cost of maintaining this circulation is very little indeed, unless the interest paid to the banks by the Government be included in the cost, and this, of course, ought not to be done, seeing that that interest would have to be paid to whomsoever might own the bonds. The banks own the bonds, and will get the interest whether they are allowed to issue notes secured by those bonds or not.

3. The national banks are allowed to charge the highest rate of interest permitted by the laws of the States in which they are located.

4. The Government grants no credit to the banks. On the contrary, the Government looks up in its safe \$100 belonging to the bank and gives the bank only \$90 to circulate instead of the \$100. The Government holds over \$360,000,000 of bonds belonging to the banks as a security for the \$332,000,000 of national-bank notes mentioned above. The national banks furnish an excellent currency.

A Brilliant Plan.

It has been left for a Buffalo genius to furnish the most brilliant illustration of the nineteenth century of the fact that necessity is the mother of invention. This genius is named DANIEL, and he is an ex-collector and a Republican. It having finally gotten into his head that the Republicans are wasting time in trying to break the solid South, and to use the apt illustration of the Philadelphia Times, that, "like the boy digging for the woodchuck, they are out of meat and something must be done," he proposes to meet the emergency by carrying a few of the northern States that are either Democratic or doubtful. There is nothing novel in this, considered as a general proposition. It is in the details of his scheme that "genius" asserts itself. Take his plan for carrying New York, for instance. Holding with the poet that "one nail drives another out," he proposes to import into New York 20,000 "good, lively colored men from the South," distribute them in the agricultural districts of the State, and let them fill the places of an equal number of Democratic laborers. The result of this, he thinks, would be to drive the 20,000 Democratic laborers to some other State for employment, and make New York so solidly Republican that even with the assistance of the Mugwumps the Democrats could not carry it. But, black and alas! it is a scheme that too frequently the efforts of genius are like the axe in the hands of the cross-eyed deacon—they do not hit where the genius is looking. Mr. DANIEL's, colored nails might also drive out some Republican nails. He seems to have forgotten that the general run of Republican employers might not be so patriotic as he would be when it came to a question of dollars and cents, and that they might not hesitate to discharge white Republican laborers if they could get negro laborers for less wages. In such event it is probable that the Republican party of New York would be left just where it is. Besides, it is worthy of Mr. DANIEL's consideration that it is possible that neither the Republican nor the Democratic laborers of New York would take kindly to his plan. The northern white laborer is not very fond of the negro. Consequently the final outcome might be fun for the white laborers and a very uncomfortable experience for the man and the brother.

General Lawton's Case.

Last spring we were concerned, or rather complained of, because we reported—what we honestly believed—that General LAWTON could not hold office under the United States Government until his disabilities had been removed. We justified our course

on the ground that if General LAWTON had no disabilities, our articles certainly could not create any, and if he had disabilities we knew he would not accept office until they were removed by Congress.

A bill to remove General LAWTON's disabilities has just passed both houses of Congress. Comment is not called for.

Southern Rivers and Harbors.

The Chattanooga Times in an article upon the Harbor Convention recently held at Savannah, Ga., says:

It must be regarded as a hopeful sign of southern progress when a body of southeastern public men, politicians, office-holders, journalists, and business-men, agree that Congress may, if it will, spend a reasonable sum of the general revenues in opening up the rivers and making their harbors commodious, safe, and easy of access from ocean and land. This convention not only assented to the doctrine of internal improvements by the General Government, but it presented in most intelligent and cogent form reasons why such expenditures should be liberal upon the harbors and rivers of the South.

Correct. The South has gotten bravely over the notion that her rivers and harbors should not be improved by the General Government. This is the northern cities that want to "gobble" all the money for harbor improvement know to their chagrin.

That Picture.

The National Republican says: "The rumor that Mr. TILDEN is negotiating for the purchase of that great picture, 'The Electoral Count,' to be added to the art treasures of his Gramer-Park palace, is not credited by the sage's intimate friends." Of course not. Mr. TILDEN needs no reminder of the conspiracy by which he was cheated out of the presidency. We renew our suggestion that Congress purchase the picture and place it in the rotunda of horrors for the benefit of coming generations.

An esteemed Republican contemporary remarks that Mr. BLAINE is disappointed in the President's message. He thinks it is too long. No doubt BLAINE is disappointed in it, but the reason assigned is "bosh." He is "disappointed" because the President rose to a plane of statesmanship that the Plumed Knight knows he could not have reached had he been elected.

BRIEF COMMENT.

The public now understand how it came about that JOHN SHERMAN was elected President of the Senate.

The Philadelphia Inquirer says: "The Democracy is not a happy family." How about the Republican family?

"LOGAN may not be a great man, as great men go now-a-days, but he has some of the symptoms of greatness." Big head, perhaps.

"It was Mr. GOULD who said, 'I never speculate.'" No, JAY, it is always a dead sure thing with you, as the other fellows can testify.

The debate in the Senate upon the whiskey question brought out some facts that account for some of the measures passed by that body during late years.

"They do say" that when KATE FIELD heard of the decision of the Supreme Court in the CANNON case she wished that she was a horrid man in order that she might paint some town red.

General B. F. BUTLER is once more under the shadow of the Washington monument down by the Potomac.

The country would be better pleased to know that BEN. was under the monument itself.

"Every week which goes by strengthens the feeling of confidence and makes more certain the coming of a business boom in the spring." Again it is order to ask how about the Republican predictions that the election of CLEVELAND would send the business of the country to the dogs?

Personal.

Rowell, the pedestrian, is coming to this country again to engage in a walking match. As usual, this is to be his "last appearance" here.

Mr. Whistler has found a new world for his pictures. They are "notes" in violet-green and violet or flesh-color and gray, while one is called a "caprice in red."

Paul Philippoteaux, a Frenchman, who with free stroke and broad brush paints battle scenes for cycloramas and things of that sort, has planted his vine and fig-tree in St. Joe county, Ind.

Clark Russell, who strings his sea yarns on a thread that smells delightfully of oakum, is about to skin the southern sea again. He sails this week for the Cape of Good Hope. In his kit is a package of pencils.

Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt was about to stab Marcelle with her golden hairpin on a Parisian stage the other night when she sank in a swoon. Twice she essayed continuance and twice again she fell, so that the curtain was rung down and the people, re-pocking their coin, went home.

The late Mrs. Fillmore's library at Buffalo has in it a scrap-book made by Mrs. Fillmore with much painstaking. The covers of green Russian leather contain all the newspaper articles that she could find to clip, telling of the latest news and death of her husband, the President of the United States. Mr. Fillmore's right arm was palsied while he held his razor in his hand in the act of shaving.

A Trenton dispatch says: Governor Abbott's continued illness, which prevents him from going to the Executive chamber, is causing anxiety. His physicians are reticent, only saying that the Governor is suffering from a cerebral difficulty which requires constant and careful treatment. The operation performed one month ago at the Eye and Ear Infirmary in New York seems to have relieved the patient, and since then the Governor has suffered less pain, but his health is by no means restored. Several eminent physicians affirm that his malady is dangerous, as it is apt at any time to enter into the brain.

"There may be some virtue in all of them," he said; "but for actual worth and rapidity of effect, I know that nothing made on excol Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup."

THE STATE AT LARGE.

PETERSBURG AND VICINITY.

Death of an Old Citizen.—The Normal-School

Investigation.—The Normal-School

Petersburg, Dec. 16, 1885.

Mr. Richard F. Strachan, an old

and well-known citizen, died this morning

at his residence, in the western part

of the city, aged about sixty-five years.

He leaves a widow and a large family

of children. Mr. Strachan was formerly

and for many years connected

with one of the other banks of this

city as book-keeper, and more recently

occupied the same position at the Norfolk

and Western Railroad Company's

office in this city. It was here that

several years ago he was prostrated by

an apoplectic attack, the effects of

which he never sufficiently recovered to

return to business. He was one of the

most accomplished accountants in the

State, and one of the purest and best

of men.

Our people of both races are really

glad that the Legislature proposes to

make a thorough investigation into the

condition and management of the Colored

Normal School near this city. The

colored people especially are deeply in-

terested in the matter, because the in-

stitution was established for their edu-

cation and advantage. It is the wish

of the truth as to the management

of the college can be brought out, it

will form an interesting chapter in our

political and educational history.

The recent heavy rains in this section

have caused a sharp rising in all the

streams. The water in the Appomattox

has risen to a level with the wharves,

but no damage has thus far been done.

While there were three candidates

for this section for the judges of the Cir-

cuit Court, to succeed the late Judge

Weigiser, the nomination of B. A. Han-

cock, Esq., of Chesterfield, excited no

surprise, and will give general satisfac-

tion. Mr. Hancock is well and favorably

known here, though he may be a compar-

atively stranger in many of the counties

of the district. It is prob-

able that the new judge will be com-

pelled to hold special terms of his court

in several of the counties on account of

his illness, and where business of much importance has

been neglected.

In Dinwiddie county the trial

of Holmes R. Puryear, for the murder

of his wife by poison, had to be con-

tinued, with the understanding, given

by Judge Weigiser, that should he re-

cover he would hold a special term at the

disposition of the case.

The Episcopal churches of this city

are being handsomely decorated with

evergreens for the Christmas season,

and the fair ladies of the congregations,

as usual, are doing all the work.

The Handford Cotton-Mill property,

formerly owned by Messrs. Davis, Roper

and Co., of this city, was sold as an

entirety at auction to-day, under a de-

creed of the Hustings Court, and was

purchased by Messrs. Woodward,

Baldwin & Co., of Baltimore, for

\$8,000, who have a mortgage upon it.

ROBIN ADAMS.

NORFOLK AND PORTSMOUTH.

United States Court—Matters—Randolph

College, Agent—Ransom Schooner Cap-

tured—Cotton.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

NORFOLK, December 16, 1885.

The United States Circuit Court—

Judge Hughes presiding—met to-day,

when the grand jury, adjourned last

evening, returned the indictment against

the District-Attorney Calvert Gibson

and Assistant James Lyons as well as

them. Among other matters, the case

of the colored man Jones, now a mem-

ber of the Virginia Legislature, who, it

is alleged, as postmaster in Mecklen-

burg, violated the law, will be before

THE OYSTER INTEREST.

THE HAMPTON CONVENTION

Organized and at Work.—The Oyster-Ten-

derers in a Minority—Elaborate De-

legations.

(Reported for the Dispatch.)

HAMPTON, December 16, 1885.

A convention of delegates from the

oyster question was held in the court-

house here some weeks ago, but owing

to the fact that not enough notice had

been given the attendance was not so

large. Therefore, on motion, it was

decided to issue a call for a convention

at Hampton on the 16th of December.

In pursuance of that call the delegates

arrived at 12 o'clock. Mr. Chowling,

of Middlesex, stated the object of the

meeting, and on motion of Mr. S. T.

Garnet, of Matthews county, Mr.

Chowling was elected temporary chair-

man of the convention. On motion of

Mr. Robert McCandlish, of Middlesex,

Mr. George Hunley, of Matthews coun-

ty, was elected temporary secretary.

Mr. Robert McCandlish, of Middle-

sex, made the first address. He in-

structed to report to this Convention

one member to serve on the Com-

mittee on Permanent Organization,

Resolutions, and Credentials respec-

tively.

On motion of Mr. Miller, of Mat-

thews county, it was decided to call

the roll of counties, and that as each

county was called the chairman of same

should announce the members of the

committees.

Roll being called, the following gen-

lemen were recommended for the sev-

eral committees:

Northumberland county—Perma-

nent Organization, R. M. Bussells;

Credentials, R. M. Bussells; Resolu-

tions, R. M. Bussells.

Lancaster county—Credentials, V. C.

Towles; Permanent Organization,

George L. Mercer; Resolutions, John

C. Ewell.

Essex county—Permanent Organi-

zation, Horis Jones; Resolutions, R. M.

Miller; Credentials, Robert Johnson.

Middlesex county—Permanent Or-

ganization, James Dillon; Credentials,

J. C. Parron; Resolutions, F. H. Black-

burn.

Matthews county—Permanent Organi-

zation, S. F. Miller; Resolutions, J. B.

Donovan; Credentials, J. B. Thurston.

Elizabeth City county—Permanent

Organization, R. M. Smith; Resolu-

tions, A. S. Segar; Credentials, H. S. Col-

lier.

York county—Permanent Organi-

zation, James Y. Slagter; Resolu-

tions, George W. Army; Credentials, J. C.

Wainwright.

Norfolk county—Permanent Organi-

zation, J. L. Bunting; Resolutions, H.

Parker; Credentials, H. Irbey.

King and Queen county—Perma-

nent Organization, D. H. Hall; Resolu-

tions, D. H. Hall; Credentials, D. H. Hall.

Warwick county—Permanent Or-

ganization, H. Schrimmer; Resolu-

tions, M. T. Hughes; Credentials, W. J.

Fitchett.

Accomack county—Permanent Or-

ganization, P. H. Connon; Resolu-

tions, J. L. Cooper; Credentials, J. L.

Cooper.

Gloucester county—Permanent Or-

ganization, J. W. Clark; Resolu-

tions, J. W. Clark; Credentials, J. W. Clark.

On motion of G. T. Garnet, of

Matthews, the Convention took a recess

until 2 o'clock.

There seems to be considerable dis-

appointment owing to the absence of

members of the Legislature who were

confidently expected to be present.

The dredgers are decidedly in the

minority in the Convention, and there

seems to be a strong opposition to that

system of catching oysters.

THE OYSTER INTEREST.

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